

Malta

September 2021

UNHCR Malta opened in 2005 to promote and monitor access to territory, fair and fast asylum procedures, and durable solutions for persons of concern, while supporting Government and partners.

Addressing Detention: Over the past six months, UNHCR has been engaging with authorities on reception conditions in closed centres, on non-detention of children and use of detention as last resort

Livelihoods: UNHCR advocates for improved access to integration opportunities to enable persons of concern to rebuild their lives in Malta with the help of Government and for

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Refugees	9,208
Asylum-seekers	4,047
Stateless persons	11
Total population of concern	13,266

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

	Refugees		Asylum-seekers
Libya	2,815	Sudan	1,119
Syria	1,871	Syria	381
Somalia	1,782	Eritrea	365

*Data source: UNHCR 2020 Global Trends Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: UNHCR has advocated for non-discriminatory inclusion of asylum seekers and refugees in the national COVID-19 prevention and response plans. UNHCR engages with the Health Authorities to offer support (e.g. translation of information) to facilitate the inclusion of POC, most recently with information on vaccination.

Communication with Communities: UNHCR ensured access to updated information of new health regulations, by creating tailored messages, translating them into common languages, and distributing them among communication channels, including WhatsApp broadcasting.

Health: UNHCR donated thousands of hygienic items to reception centres to help safeguard POC against the pandemic. UNHCR also offered interpretation support to the national COVID-19 helpline.

HIGHLIGHTS

Livelihoods

UNHCR has worked with authorities on proposed policy changes related to access of asylum-seekers to employment. UNHCR called for a holistic implementation of fair and efficient asylum process and improved reception conditions to ensure a dignified standard of living and self-reliance. Mitigation measures against recourse to informal employment and exploitative practices

Child Protection legal amendments

UNHCR advocacy and recommendations contributed to the adoption of a bill by amending the Minor Protection Act. The amendments addressed shortcomings which led to the lack of issuance of protection orders by simplifying the procedure. UNHCR welcomed the simplification of the procedure while stressing the need to invest more staff and resources

TOGETHER WE... MESSAGES OF WELCOME FOR REFUGEES IN MALTA

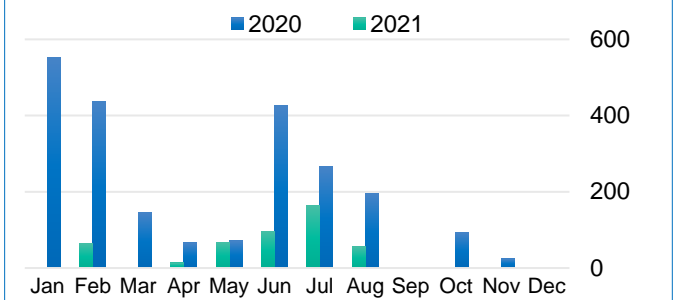


Organizations, stakeholders and communities shared a message of inclusion on the occasion of World Refugee Day 2021.

Key Priorities

- **Access to territory:** UNHCR monitoring seeks to ensure that asylum-seekers have effective access to territory can apply for international protection.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR supports authorities in developing fair and fast asylum procedures with legal remedies in line with international standards.
- **Detention monitoring** regular visits and communication with the Detention Services, advocating for detention as a measure of last resort.
- **Integration:** Counselling and drop-in integration support through implementing partner JRS; support to a community theatre project; information-sharing on services and projects, quarterly meetings with stakeholders; participation to a government-chaired forum with migrant and refugee communities.
- **Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance:** Continuation of coaching for refugee-led organisations (RLOs) to build capacity; focus group discussions with persons of concern to assess information needs; collaboration with state agencies to provide information the community of concern and NGOs through information sessions and training.
- **Promoting social cohesion:** Participation in the national Anti-Racism Platform; supporting local actors to facilitate refugee integration in communities, including Malta's sister island of Gozo.
- **Advocacy:** Advocating with authorities to follow up the GRF pledge on a complementary pathways. In light of new legislation relating to restricted employment to asylum-seekers from "safe countries of origin", UNHCR and partners advocate for access to territory and asylum, fair and fast asylum procedures and effective returns.
- **Capacity building:** UNHCR provided training to two key employment stakeholders on POCs and their entitlements; training to strengthen cross-cultural competence was provided to partners.

MONTHLY SEA ARRIVALS TO MALTA



Source and more information: [UNHCR Data Portal](#)

Working with Partners

- Supporting local NGOs providing language, GBV or other training for persons of concern, collaborating with international organisations (IOM) and Government entities (e.g., on employment); and setting up a roundtable to address legislative gaps. Legal information and psychosocial support provided by partner organisations. UNHCR reaches out to communities directly and through RLOs.
- **External Engagement:** Highlighting stories of refugees and asylum-seekers in community, amplifying the work of partners through social media and being present with advocacy points in mainstream media.

Statelessness

- Malta acceded to the 1954 Statelessness Convention in December 2019 but does not have a statelessness determination procedure. Efforts with the Ministry for Home Affairs, Security and Law Enforcement in this regard continue, as an SDP would improve statelessness data collection.

UNHCR Presence in Malta

Staff:

13 National Staff
2 International Staff

Offices:

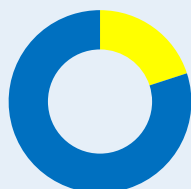
1 Branch Office in Hamrun

Financial information (28 September 2021)

Financial requirements

USD 1.9 M

Funding gap
44%
0.8 M



Funded
56%
1.1 M

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